

AGN. NO.

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY**

**JUNE 4, 2013**

**Leveraging County Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) funds to Achieve Best Practices**

On April 4, 2006, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors authorized a bold effort to combat homelessness in Los Angeles County (County), called the Homeless Prevention Initiative. The initiative identified a total of \$100 million in one time funds as well as \$15.6 million in ongoing funding for various initiatives, including stabilization centers, a homeless family access center, a homeless court, housing locators, a General Relief housing subsidy pilot, and efforts to accept applications at County jails and medical centers pilot program.

Since then, the County has become a national model and continues to lead local innovative homeless policy efforts. For example, the Department of Mental Health leveraged Mental Health Service Act (MHSA) funds to create 33 buildings with a total of 746 units of permanent supportive housing for MHSA eligible clients and 1,588 total units of affordable housing for eligible persons at risk of homelessness. The

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Department of Health Services initiated the Benefits Eligibility Screening Tools Project with community partners and achieved a phenomenal Supplemental Security Income approval rate of nearly 90%, enabling disabled individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and afford permanent housing. The Project 50 integrated treatment team reduced medical costs of chronically homeless individuals from an average of \$34,000 to \$12,500 per person for the two years before and after participation, respectively.

Much has been learned over the last seven years, especially as it relates to the critical importance of permanent supportive housing, leveraging existing available funding, integrating and prioritizing services across all departments to prevent and address homelessness, and combating homelessness in overburdened communities. Recently, the Los Angeles County Interagency Council on Homelessness released a roadmap that summarized some of the lessons learned and identified further steps that the County should take to combat homelessness.

Now is an ideal time to apply the lessons learned over the last seven years to the remaining unspent countywide Homeless Prevention Initiative one-time and ongoing funds.

**WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS** direct the Chief Executive Officer to:

- a) Develop recommendations, in consultation with the Los Angeles County Interagency Council on Homelessness, to reprogram the currently

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unspent countywide Homeless Prevention Initiative one-time funds and ongoing non-district funds starting in the 2013-2014 fiscal year in a manner that both promotes permanent supportive housing and best practices and considers geographic burden and need as determined by the latest Homeless Count results for the Los Angeles, Glendale, Pasadena and Long Beach continuums of care;

- b) Ensure at least 90% of the recommended reprogrammed funds go to fund permanent supportive housing efforts, especially those efforts that could leverage significant federal, state, local and philanthropic funds and resources. Permanent supportive housing efforts include related case management and supportive services that assist homeless persons to secure and retain stable permanent housing. Related case management and supportive services include housing location, move-in costs, shallow rental subsidies, interim housing leading to permanent housing, services to promote community reintegration and readiness, support of Family Solution Centers, support for interdepartmental teams to combat homelessness and efforts to secure income (such as Supplemental Security Income and other benefits);
- c) Ensure 150 winter shelter beds are funded on an ongoing basis for future fiscal years;

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- d) Ensure the recommendations propose a criteria and methodology to strategically target populations;
- e) Identify an additional \$5 – \$10 million for annual Homeless Prevention Initiative ongoing funds; and
- f) Report back to the Board in writing in 60 days.

**WE FURTHER MOVE THAT** the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), with input from County Counsel, include in its report a recommended review process that should be followed, including any delegated authority that the CEO may need, to enable the Board to efficiently make expenditures that accomplish the proposed Homeless Prevention Initiative re-programmed goals.

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